

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT County Fire	(2) MEETING DATE 8/12/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Robert Lewin, 543-4244 Bill Winter, 543-4244	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve the FY 2014-15 renewal agreement (Clerk's File) for cooperative fire protection services with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in the amount of \$15,671,697. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve and direct the Chair to sign the FY 2014-15 annual agreement for cooperative fire protection services (Clerk's file) with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in the amount of \$15,671,697.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$15,671,697	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: County Fire / Robert Lewin, 543-4244  
Bill Winter, 543-4244

DATE: 8/12/2014

SUBJECT: Request to approve the FY 2014-15 renewal agreement for cooperative fire protection services with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in the amount of \$15,671,697. All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve and direct the Chair to sign the FY 2014-15 annual agreement for cooperative fire protection services (Clerk's file) with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in the amount of \$15,671,697.

## **DISCUSSION**

CAL FIRE has provided fire protection and related services to the County of San Luis Obispo through a series of annual agreements since 1930. The services provided include emergency medical response, structural and vehicle fire suppression, hazardous materials spill mitigation, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and technical and confined space rescue. Sections 4142 and 4144 of the California Public Resources Code authorize this agreement between the State and the County.

Currently, the County Fire Department operates out of 16 fire stations providing service to an area of over 3,200 square miles. These fire stations include ten County-owned facilities and six State-owned facilities. Fourteen of the stations are staffed seven-days-per-week with full-time staff. Morro-Toro Station 14 and Oak Shores Station 34 remain volunteer stations, with Paid Call Firefighters (PCFs) responding to incidents, supported by full-time staff from other stations. Three stations (Cambria Station 10, San Luis Obispo Station 12, and Shandon Station 51) are staffed under what is known as an "Amador" Plan, where the State pays staffing costs during fire season and the County pays staffing costs during non-fire season.

The amount of this contract is \$15,671,697. This reflects a \$708,553 (4.7%) increase over the Fiscal Year 2013-14 contract, \$657,654 of which will be funded from the County General Fund. Three primary reasons for the increase include: 1) salary savings in the prior year which were not carried forward to the current year; 2) increases to the state's contract rates for employee benefits and administration; and, 3) the restoration of a position which was inadvertently omitted from the contract in the prior year. The FY 2014-15 adopted budget also includes an additional \$183,046 of General Fund expense to add three limited term Firefighter-II positions during the six-month non-fire season at Shandon Station 51, to ensure a third firefighter responds to all incidents during non-fire season, even when no Paid-Call Firefighters (volunteers) are available.

Functional breakdown of the budget shows costs dividing among four primary areas: managing the department takes \$852,376 (5.4% of the total), preventing emergencies takes \$832,341 (5.3%), preparing for emergencies takes \$1,040,187 (6.6%), and responding to emergencies takes \$12,946,792 (82.6%).

Also included in the contract are costs which are offset by revenues under fire protection and emergency response

agreements between the County and the following agencies. The portion of this contract attributable to each agency is shown.

- Los Osos Community Services District, \$1,611,411
- First Solar, Inc., \$470,310
- San Luis Obispo County Municipal Airport, \$429,727
- Avila Beach Fire Protection District, \$119,479

This contract is the product of ongoing cooperative fire protection and emergency response efforts between the County, the State, and numerous other emergency response agencies. It builds on the strengths of each agency, and effectively leverages the County's investment in protecting the lives and property of County residents and visitors, with the capabilities and resources of those agencies.

#### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The attached agreement has been reviewed by County Counsel and County Risk Management.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This agreement for cooperative fire protection services is in the amount of \$15,671,697. Of this total, \$2,974,589 is offset with revenue from existing cooperative fire protection service agreements under which County Fire provides services to Los Osos Community Services District (CSD), Avila Beach CSD, with the San Luis Obispo Regional Airport, First Solar, Inc., and five local fire departments which contract with County Fire for dispatch services. Lastly, \$601,901 of these costs are offset by sales tax revenues from solar plant collection, which are budgeted to be received from the two solar projects in Fund Center 101 – Non-Departmental Revenues. The remaining \$12,095,477 is funded by the County General Fund, grant proceeds, Prop 172 Sales Tax revenues, fees and other revenue sources.

This contract comprises approximately 82% of County Fire's FY 2014-15 budgeted expenditures. Other, non-contract expenditures include training; equipment; stipends for paid-call-firefighters; facility rent, maintenance and utilities; insurance and countywide overhead. The amount of this contract is a \$708,553 (4.7%) increase over the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 contract, largely the result of increases CAL FIRE in personnel costs, including the addition of three positions in Shandon Station 51, as stated above.

#### **RESULTS**

This cooperative agreement between the County and CAL FIRE provides for the continued efficient and cost-effective delivery of fire and emergency services, and allows the Department to continue its efforts to meet performance measures included in the County Budget. It is an essential part of the department's efforts to provide a safe community, a healthy community and a well-governed community.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Clerk's File - CAL FIRE FY 2014-15 Contract